

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A distributor unit for cooperation with a transmission cylinder on which travels a web-shaped material which has to receive a substance, the distributor unit having an operator side and a transmission side, the distributor unit comprising:

a reservoir containing the ~~liquid~~ substance;

an anilox cylinder;

a cliché cylinder onto which is movably fitted a cliché jacket, said reservoir, said anilox cylinder and said cliché cylinder being movable from and to said transmission cylinder;

an operator side support holding said anilox cylinder;

an operator side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a locking device for locking said cliché cylinder in a cantilever position in a substitution state when said corresponding cliché jacket has to be substituted, said locking device being associated with said transmission side support of said cliché cylinder, said operator side support of said cliché cylinder comprising a first element and a second element automatically movable from and to said cliché cylinder, said first and second elements holding said ~~anilox~~ cliché cylinder on said operator side in a use state and said first and second elements are reciprocally spaced disengaging said operator side of said cliché cylinder in said substitution state;

an actuator associated with said second element for controlling movement of said second element from and to said an axis of said cliché cylinder, said second element comprising a stop for limiting a movement of the distributor unit towards the transmission cylinder; and

an elastic means interposed between said an appendix of said first element and said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

12. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said distributor unit comprises a color unit for printing machines and said the substance contained in said reservoir comprises an ink.

13. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein the substance contained in said reservoir comprises a glue.

14. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein the substance contained in said reservoir is a softening liquid.

15. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said first element is linked to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder by a linkage, whereby motion of said operator side support of said anilox cylinder causes movement of said first element.

16. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 15, wherein said linkage between said first element and operator side support of said anilox cylinder comprises a lateral rigid appendix of said first element, said appendix being connected to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

17. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said first

and second elements are disposed on opposite sides in respect to said cliché cylinder.

18. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder and said transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder are independent from each other and respectively provided with an elastic stop and with a rigid stop.

19. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 11, wherein said first element is provided with a concavity facing said cliché cylinder.

20. (Currently Amended) A distributor unit for cooperation with a transmission cylinder on which travels a web-shaped material which has to receive a substance, the distributor unit having an operator side and a transmission side, the distributor unit comprising:

a reservoir containing the ~~liquid~~ substance;

an anilox cylinder;

a cliché cylinder onto which is movably fitted a cliché jacket, said reservoir, said anilox cylinder and said cliché cylinder being movable from and to said transmission cylinder;

an operator side support holding said anilox cylinder;

an operator side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a locking device for locking said cliché cylinder in a cantilever position in a substitution state when said corresponding cliché jacket has to be substituted, said locking device being associated with said transmission side support of said cliché cylinder, said operator side support

15 of said cliché cylinder comprising a first element and a second element automatically movable from and to said cliché cylinder, said first and second elements holding said ~~anilox~~ cliché cylinder on said operator side in a use state and said first and second elements are reciprocally spaced disengaging said operator side of said cliché cylinder in said substitution state;

20 an actuator associated with said second element for controlling movement of said second element from and to said an axis of said cliché cylinder, said second element comprising a stop for limiting a movement of the distributor unit towards the transmission cylinder, said first element being linked to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder by a linkage whereby motion of said operator side support of said anilox cylinder causes movement of said first element.

21. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said linkage between said first element and operator side support of said anilox cylinder comprises a lateral rigid appendix of said first element, said appendix being connected to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

22. (Currently Amended) A distributor unit according to claim 20, further comprising:
an elastic means interposed between said an appendix of said first element and said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

23. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said first and second elements are disposed on opposite sides in respect to said cliché cylinder.

24. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said

transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder and said transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder are independent from each other and respectively provided with an elastic stop and with a rigid stop.

25. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said first element is provided with a concavity facing said cliché cylinder.

26. (Currently Amended) A distributor unit for cooperation with a transmission cylinder on which travels a web-shaped material which has to receive a substance, the distributor unit having an operator side and a transmission side, the distributor unit comprising:

a reservoir containing the ~~liquid~~ substance;

an anilox cylinder;

a cliché cylinder onto which is movably fitted a cliché jacket, said reservoir, said anilox cylinder and said cliché cylinder being movable from and to said transmission cylinder;

an operator side support holding said anilox cylinder;

an operator side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder;

a transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder;

a locking device for locking said cliché cylinder in a cantilever position in a substitution state when said corresponding cliché jacket has to be substituted, said locking device being associated with said transmission side support of said cliché cylinder, said operator side support of said cliché cylinder comprising a first element and a second element automatically movable from and to said cliché cylinder, said first and second elements holding said anilox cliché cylinder on said operator side in a use state and said first and second elements are reciprocally

spaced disengaging said operator side of said cliché cylinder in said substitution state;

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an actuator associated with said second element for controlling movement of said second element from and to said an axis of said cliché cylinder, said second element comprising a stop for limiting a movement of the distributor unit towards the transmission cylinder, wherein said transmission side support holding said anilox cylinder and said transmission side support holding said cliché cylinder are independent from each other and respectively provided with an elastic stop and with a rigid stop.

27. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 26, wherein said first element is linked to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder by a linkage, whereby motion of said operator side support of said anilox cylinder causes movement of said first element.

28. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 27, wherein said linkage between said first element and operator side support of said anilox cylinder comprises a lateral rigid appendix of said first element, said appendix being connected to said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

29. (Currently Amended) A distributor unit according to claim ~~20~~ 26, further comprising:

an elastic means interposed between said an appendix of said first element and said operator side support of said anilox cylinder.

30. (Previously Presented) A distributor unit according to claim 20, wherein said first

and second elements are disposed on opposite sides in respect to said cliché cylinder and said first element is provided with a concavity facing said cliché cylinder.